



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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For the week ending May 20, 2012

## COTTON AND SOYBEAN PLANTING CONTINUES

Taking advantage of good planting weather, farmers continued with cotton and soybean planting in anticipation of weekend rains. Although some rainfall was received, most could still use a good soaking rain to help emerged crops develop. Over one-third of wheat crop is ripe, and farmers are readying combines for an early harvest possibly starting in the next few days. There were reports of spraying for thrips and armyworms. Harvesting hay, fertilizing, transplanting tobacco, and spraying insecticides and herbicides were other major farm activities last week. Pastures have improved some with recent rains and the majority are rated in good condition.

There were 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork across the state. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 6 percent very short, 26 percent short, 67 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 7 percent very short, 28 percent short, 64 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged above normal across the west and middle portions of the state with closer to average temperatures for the east and plateau regions. Rainfall amounts averaged below normal in the western and middle portions of the state and near normal across the plateau and east.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2011	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Corn – Emerged	99	99	57	77	Corn	0	5	28	56	11
Cotton – Planted	75	52	38	49	Pastures	1	8	32	53	6
Hay – 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	66	46	31	32	Winter Wheat	1	6	23	51	19
Soybeans – Planted	59	35	20	26						
Soybeans – Emerged	36	19	4	9						
Tobacco – Transplanted	40	21	24	25						
Winter Wheat – Turning Color	95	79	36	25						
Winter Wheat – Ripe	35	14	0	0						

### County Agent Comments

*“Crop conditions are favorable with much needed rain. Rain is in the forecast but conditions are becoming droughtier. Wheat is drying down quickly. Harvest has not begun as of this week. Farmers have been spraying soybeans for thrips and forage crops for armyworms. Cattle are in good conditions with the hay cutting season well underway.”*  
**J.C. Dupree, Lauderdale County**

*“Soybean planters have caught up to wheat in many locations and topsoil moisture shortage has stopped some producers from planting. Corn is showing signs of an early drought and a good, general rain is badly in need. Wheat harvest will begin this weekend or early next week. Winter wheat harvest typically occurs in June, making a May harvest very unusual.”*  
**Jeff Lannom, Weakley County**

*“Rain last Sunday from 2" to 6" finally ended dry spring conditions. Hay yields drastically decreased (40-50%) from last year. “*  
**Paul Hart, Robertson County**

*“Maury County received about 2 inches of rain on May 12&13. Totals varied from 1.5 to 3.0 inches. Soybean planting has started up again and the first cutting of hay is in full swing. Hay yields are below average and most of the fescue is more mature than usual for the time of year. Hay supplies may be tight if we don't get enough rain for a good yield on the second cutting. Pastures are slowly improving.”*  
**Richard Groce, Maury County**

*“Hay cutting in full swing. Getting harder to locate custom hay processing farmers. Spring hay may be a little short, some because of light moisture some because of lack of fertilization. Most green beans have been planted.”*  
**Scott Chadwell, Putnam County**

*“The (wheat) crop is drying down rapidly without any moisture. Producers are preparing combines for harvest and anticipate limited harvest will begin in the coming week, which is about two weeks ahead of schedule. Farmers got an excellent start planting the (corn) crop; however, it is the poorest looking crop most can remember. Several producers resumed planting (soybeans) this week in hopes of taking advantage of the moisture that fell this past weekend. Like corn, emergence has been sporadic. One farmer has lost 40 acres in river bottom land to slug damage. Most producers are reporting nearly done with planting single crop beans. Dry conditions have not been favorable to good cotton emergence. The (canola) crop is maturing and producers will begin applying harvest aid products at the start of next week. The bulk of the first hay cutting is complete; the crop was less than anticipated due to early warm temperatures causing cool season grasses to head earlier than normal. Without rain pastures and hay fields are providing little regrowth. Producers are beginning to become concerned about future hay stocks. While temperatures have been warm enough for warm season grass growth lack of moisture has not allowed for these to fill the gap.”*  
**Ed Burns, Franklin County**

*“Lots of hay baled this week. Weather forecasts have not favored hay cutting. Corn is looking better due to spotty showers. Some of wheat has lodged due to storm damage.”*  
**John Goddard, Loudon County**

*“Rainfall early in the week has helped, however dry conditions still exist in the county.”*  
**Jerry Lamb, Rhea County**

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION  
 For week ending: May 20, 2012 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending May 20, 2012				Current Week 5/20/12	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
West										
Ames_Plantation	89	52	69	0	0.02	1	15.52	-7.52	5.02	-4.07
Brownsville_TN	88	57	72	3	0.01	1	12.99	-10.07	2.75	-6.35
Covington	88	56	71	2	0.00	0	15.47	-7.53	3.33	-5.81
Dyersburg	91	55	74	4	0.00	0	12.26	-8.61	3.12	-4.77
Huntingdon_Wate	89	55	70	4	0.53	2	11.97	-9.99	3.28	-4.76
Jackson_Exp_Stn	88	55	70	3	0.26	1	13.71	-8.46	2.77	-5.97
Lexington_TN	88	54	68	2	0.00	0	14.17	-7.19	3.02	-4.99
Martin	89	55	71	4	0.00	0	14.44	-7.15	3.68	-4.50
Memphis_AG	91	54	72	0	0.09	2	16.17	-6.31	5.12	-3.69
Milan	90	51	70	4	0.00	0	12.33	-9.92	1.82	-6.64
Paris	87	54	69	3	0.00	0	12.43	-9.10	2.73	-5.12
Savannah_6SW	88	55	70	1	0.60	2	20.98	-3.94	8.02	-1.26
Selmer	90	54	70	3	0.05	2	16.02	-8.70	3.23	-6.07
Union_City	89	53	71	4	0.10	1	12.93	-8.42	3.33	-4.67
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	90	54	71	5	0.08	1	11.73	-9.32	2.35	-4.88
Cookeville	84	51	66	2	0.53	3	18.71	-4.72	3.58	-4.65
Crossville_AP	80	51	65	2	1.59	2	18.33	-5.07	3.82	-4.38
Dickson_AG	86	52	69	2	0.51	3	15.89	-6.70	4.09	-4.32
Dover_1W	88	55	69	4	0.09	2	14.20	-7.84	3.51	-4.46
Fayetteville_TN	88	53	71	5	0.34	1	18.94	-4.50	3.95	-4.04
Jamestown	81	49	64	1	0.61	2	20.23	-1.52	4.51	-3.25
Kingston_Spring	90	53	69	5	1.65	4	17.49	-4.24	6.54	-1.06
Lewisburg	89	50	67	2	0.67	3	13.68	-9.50	2.99	-5.45
Livingston_WLIV	85	52	67	2	1.19	3	20.65	-0.67	4.40	-3.25
Lobelville	87	54	69	4	0.69	3	15.12	-8.54	4.49	-4.01
Murfreesboro_5N	87	53	68	2	0.97	4	15.54	-6.44	3.43	-4.61
Nashville_Metro	89	56	71	3	0.91	2	16.81	-3.17	5.76	-1.83
Oneida	83	48	65	4	0.45	1	21.40	-0.52	4.50	-3.40
Portland_TN	87	55	68	4	1.01	2	16.45	-4.72	4.77	-2.94
Pulaski_Water_P	85	51	67	-2	0.69	2	16.79	-6.57	5.56	-2.23
Shelbyville	87	53	71	4	0.15	3	15.93	-7.22	2.01	-6.09
Sparta_TN	85	52	67	3	0.75	2	16.08	-6.78	3.10	-5.04
Springfield	87	54	68	4	2.45	3	21.22	0.71	9.53	2.05
Springhill	87	49	68	4	0.98	4	15.78	-7.76	4.69	-4.06
Tullahoma	86	56	71	5	0.51	4	16.04	-8.45	2.67	-5.68
Waynesboro_TN	87	52	67	2	2.17	3	21.77	-3.27	9.93	0.85
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	86	57	70	4	1.20	2	17.04	-6.04	2.71	-4.47
Cleveland_6NNE	85	53	69	4	0.31	3	14.77	-8.50	2.49	-5.05
Dayton	83	55	67	1	1.95	2	17.97	-6.22	3.64	-4.35
Erwin_1W	80	51	65	4	1.63	3	18.00	-0.62	7.30	0.33
Gatlinburg_2SW	81	51	64	2	1.03	3	25.97	4.25	9.03	1.40
Greeneville	82	51	67	2	1.78	4	19.31	2.54	8.19	2.23
Kingston_AG	86	56	69	5	3.65	2	22.18	-2.12	7.20	-0.85
Knoxville_AP	84	55	69	4	2.14	2	22.26	2.42	6.47	0.09
Newcomb	83	50	66	4	0.79	2	22.20	0.28	5.74	-2.16
Norris_4NE	84	51	66	3	1.37	2	23.39	2.13	6.88	-0.33
Tri-City_RGNL_A	83	52	67	4	1.48	3	16.51	0.21	5.78	-0.04

DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) measured in inches.

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